



LARC



Volume 55, Number 2

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC..

FEBRUARY 2015

President's Message - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD

Things have been slowing down in ham radio for me this month. I guess the cold weather is finally getting more control over my activities. I have been keeping up with my reading on ham radio and other topics and checking in on the nets I try to sign in on a more or less regular basis. I do have the basic parts for my DTMF control for my antenna switch, but the motivation was lacking to do anything with it. I need to test the basic functionality on the table before completing my construction plan. I did finish the design to get the tones inserted on the cable that goes to the switch along with the filtering to separate the DC control voltage and the tones on the receiving end. I will order more parts as soon as I test the DTMF circuits to get the voltage levels produced by the circuits. I must say that the use of the free Multisim circuit analysis tool was invaluable in getting the design completed. I do not have much in the line of test equipment, but the Multisim has all the frequency generators, DC supplies, and oscilloscopes that were needed. Putting a "watch list" at key points in the circuit gives voltages and currents, both instantaneous and averages to immediately see what is happening in the circuit.

I just received the updated membership list from Archie, W5AG. It shows that we currently have 92 members. 65 of the members are ARRL members. If any of you have not sent in your membership dues for 2015, you can find the form on our web site at:

http://w5ddl.org/aara_membership_appl.pdf
or just send in the membership fee to Archie Hill, our club treasurer. If you do not remember when you last sent in your dues, you can look it up on the club web site, <http://w5ddl.org>. We value your membership. If you have older copies of the QST magazine, see if you can pass them along to someone that may have an interest in ham radio.

Since this is the start of a new year, it is a good time to see which club activities you are interested in supporting and want to participate. First to come to mind is the hamfest. Get out your pen and paper and make your list of things you need to find for those projects you have for the year. Remember to include any adapters you will need to interface your ham equipment for portable or emergency use. I know that I need some short cables to go from SMA to PL259 for my handy talkie to connect to real antennas. I also need some more High Voltage capacitors for my antenna projects.

I want to thank James, KF5RBW for bringing in his LPDA antenna at the last meeting. It was well constructed and his comments on its performance was interesting. Let him know if you want the construction plans. If you have a similar ham related project, feel free to let the rest of us know what you have and what you think of it. Sharing knowledge is one of the benefits of belonging to a group with similar interests.

Now on to a problem close to me. As most of you have surmised by now, my hearing is poor and not getting any better. So, hearing in normal noisy environments is something of a chore for me. At home, I compensate by reading the closed captions on the TV, turn up the volume, or use remote infrared earphones to listen to TV. I have less of a problem with SSB radio because most hams have limited their bandwidth to 2.7 kHz or less and have optimized their audio for speech intelligibility. Trying to get "studio quality" out of SSB transmissions and staying under 3 kHz are diametrically opposed. If you want to see how you would fare in "hearing hifi", go to this site: <http://newt.phys.unsw.edu.au/jw/hearing.html> and test your hearing. Do it two ways – first at a constant volume setting as described at the site, then by checking the minimum volume at

which you can just hear a frequency or tone. Do it two ways – first at a constant volume setting as described at the site, then by checking the minimum volume at which you can just hear a frequency or tone. After this, you will have some basis to judge other hams transmissions within your own hearing limitations. Try not to fall into the trap of telling a ham he is "studio quality" and instead let him know if he is consuming twice as much bandwidth as he needs to be heard and understood. The one exception to this rule is if you know the ham talking and recognize his voice; tell him if he sounds like himself. Most hams can tell if a SSB signal is off frequency or if the signal is distorted or has hum or distortion and these are valid characteristics to help one get a "clean" voice signal. Also, some hams can tell if there is background noise between words or if excessive speech processing is being used. Let us all try to get a good signal on the air and avoid using 4-6 kHz of spectrum space to prove you have a "hifi" audio station. Other adjacent ham QSO's will thank you.

I am looking forward to our next meeting on Thursday, February 5 at our normal meeting place at the Red Cross building on Pat Street. Our thanks to Tony Credeur and the Red Cross in allowing us to use their facility for our meetings. We can return the favor by keeping ourselves ready to respond in emergencies in support of the groups that put "boots on the ground" to help those in need.

AARA February General Meeting

**Thursday, February 5, 2015
@ 7:00 PM - Red Cross Building,
101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA.**

VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL MEETING

February 5, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building
101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA
VE Testing Tonight @ 6:00 PM

AREA HAMFESTS

See page 4

Local 2-Meter Nets

Sunday

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Bodie's Memorial DX Net
145.410 New Iberia, LA

Thursday

Youth Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

President - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
LarryJamesLeBlanc@centurylink.net
Vice Pres. - Jess Gillion - KF5LUL
Secretary - Sandy Leblanc - KE5KJF
Treasurer - Archie Hill—W5AG

BOARD MEMBERS

Paula Romero - KF5CNS
Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP
James Williams - KF5RBW
Kendra Wilson - KF5FYS

QSL MANAGER

Roland Guidry - NA5Q

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Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday
of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the
American Red Cross Building, 101
North Pat Street, Scott, LA

JANUARY 2015 AARA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2015

CLUB MEETING:

- The AARA meeting was called to order by President Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD.
- Chad Haviland KG5AYJ led the prayer.
- All said the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 21 members and 7 guests attended the meeting.
- Testing were Michael LeBlanc, Robert Cooley, Steven Webre, and John Woods.

Larry LeBlanc, President, called the meeting to order and had everyone introduce themselves, as well as giving something interesting they did with Ham Radio.

Minutes: The December minutes were submitted by Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, secretary, and they were posted in the January LARC. On motion by Ric Wallace KF5KEL, seconded by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, the minutes were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: Archie Hill W5AG gave the Treasurer's Report. On motion by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, seconded by Sandy LeBlanc, the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. The Financial Report is not published in the LARC; any member wanting a copy can contact Archie W5AG.

Nominating Committee: Galen Wilson KF5BET, Nominating Committee Chairman announced that the new slate of officers had been determined. The new slate of Officers are as follows:

President – Mark Saltzman W5GTI
Vice President – Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
Secretary – Abbi Wilson KF5BEW
Treasurer – Archie Hill W5AG

Board of Directors – Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Ric Wallace KF5KEL.

At the next meeting on February 5th we will take any other nominations from the floor and then have the elections. The new officers will be installed at the Banquet on the Saturday after the Hamfest.

Hamfest: Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Galen Wilson KF5BET will be Co-Chairmen for the Hamfest which will be held March 20-21, 2015 at the Rayne Convention Center. Pre-registration is \$4.00 and you get 1 ticket and registration at the door will be \$5.00.

At the next meeting Glen will bring a list of jobs available for people to sign-up. We are hoping to cover each job and a back-up for the job.

We will have the same caterer as last year. Crawfish will be \$24 for 4 pounds and if the price goes down you will get more. Only those pre-registered are guaranteed crawfish.

We will be needing the antenna trailer for the Hamfest. A work day will be scheduled to put in the flooring on the trailer.

Paula Romero KF5CNS and Jackie Wallace KF5PCH will be needing help in the Sweet Shop. Paula is asking for baskets for the Sweet Shop.

Weston Hebert KB5WI will be running the Bingo on Saturday. He will be needing help. At the next meeting members should bring prizes for the Bingo. Weston will have his truck.

Glen brought a repeater that Charlie Morrison N5WE will set-up for the 146.82 W5DDL repeater. Thanks Glen.

Fred Marshall donated a repeater to the club and Jess Gillion will take care of getting the "cans". \$200.00 was approved for the "cans". Ric Wallace made a motion that we all give Fred Marshall a big "THANK YOU" for the donation.

Mark Saltzman W5GTI, Net Controller for the Monday Night net, purchased the dual band handi-talkie with all the accessories. The top 10 people who checked in on the Monday Night net were considered for the drawing. The winner is Ray N5LRZ. We all would like to THANK Mark for all he does for the AARA.

Larry KE5KJD spoke about www.reversebeacon.net; cwskimmer; and www.wsprnet.org. Wsprnet.org logs contacts at receiving stations around the world. For transmitting you need to be present at the station. Larry also spoke about the "mouser" modeling program called Multisim. It is a free download and can simulate a circuit design.

On motion by Tom Dishler W5OHJ, seconded by Jackie Wallace KF5PCH, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF
AARA Secretary 2014-2015

Possible Technician Class

Nick Pugh K5QXJ, has mentioned about getting a new Technician Class started. If you or anyone you know that may be interested, they need to contact Nick or Herman KN5GRK.



Orange Hamfest 2015

Hosted by: Orange Amateur Radio Club and Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club.

WHEN: Saturday, February 28th, 2015

TIME: 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Orange County Convention & Expo Center @ 11475 FM 1442, Orange, Texas 77632

(Coordinates: 30 07.28N & 093 52.92W or 30.1244,-93.8922)

ADMISSION: \$8.00 per person (Age 12 years & younger free admission).

VE TESTING: will start at 10:00 a.m.

Dealer tables \$15.00 ea

Flea market tables \$15.00 ea

Tailgate spaces Free - limited spaces in designated tailgating area.

VENDORS

Main Trading Company
Houston Amateur Radio Supply
Palmetto Antennas
Hub City Amateur Radio Sales

Grand Prizes:

Kenwood TS-480SAT HF radio
Kenwood TM-281A 2M mobile
Kenwood TH-K20A 2M HT
LaCrosse WS-2810-2-IT Weather Station

The tickets for the Grand Prize and door prizes are: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, 12 for \$10.00, etc.

The Grand Prizes will be drawn at 1:30 p.m. You NEED NOT BE PRESENT for the Grand Prize drawings.

You MUST BE PRESENT for all door prize drawings.

Door Prize tickets will be put back in for The Grand Prize Drawings.

Website:

http://www.qsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm

AARA Monday Night Net Dual-Band HT Giveaway

Another year of the AARA Monday Night Net is complete and with the inclusion of the W5EXI and KF5VH repeaters in a rotation with W5DDL, the AARA Monday Night Net remains a success for the Acadiana area.

For 2014, I decided to reward those who participate on a regular basis. Each Monday Night Net roster is saved and a count, by callsign, keeps track of how many times that callsign checks in for the year. A running total of your check-ins accumulates and provides a result after 52 weeks. This year I selected the Top 10 callsigns to be entered into a drawing for a Dual-Band HT. The following callsigns were eligible based on their total check-ins for the year (in order):

CALL:	NAME:	SCORE:	CALL:	NAME:	SCORE:
W5THS	DERICK	52	KF5BEW	ABBI	41
KN5GRK	HERMAN	51	N5LRZ	RAY	38
KF5THS	AJ	50	KD5JSM	DANNY	38
K5LFT	GREG	46	KF5LUL	JESS	36
KF5BET	GALEN	45	W5OHJ	TOM	36
KF5FYS	KENDRA	43			

There are 11 callsigns total, since we had a tie at 10th place.

At the January General Club meeting we had the drawing and KG5AYI Samuel picked the winning callsign - N5LRZ Ray. I promptly contacted Mr. Ray to notify him about winning the prize. He stated that he had plenty of 2M rigs that were not presently being used and he wished to donate his prize back to the club, so the HT could benefit another fellow HAM.

Since the Net Prize has been donated back to the club, I will hold another drawing for the prize at the February General Club meeting, from the remaining Top 10 callsigns listed above. **However, this go round, you MUST be present at the February General Club meeting to win.** There will be an exception for KF5FYS Kendra and KF5BEW Abbi, due to the fact that they call the Youth Net on Thursday at 7PM during the meeting. All others MUST be present to win.

I have decided to continue the HT giveaway for 2015. The Top 10 check-ins will have a chance to win a Dual-Band HT. I want to personally thank all of you for your participation as it makes my time and effort worth it. I look forward to another good year for the AARA Monday Night Net.

Mark W5GTI

AARA Monday Night Net Manager

VE TEST SESSION - January 8, 2015

John P. Webre of Broussard, LA AF5VR all the way from none to Extra.
Robert I. Cooley of Scott, LA from none to General license and now is KG5FMQ.

Michael J. LeBlanc of New Iberia, LA received his Technician license and now is KG5FMO.

John A. Woods Sr. of Broussard, LA received his Technician license and now is KG5FMP.

Joshua P. Taylor of Lafayette, LA received his Technician license and now is KG5FOS.

VE's present were: Greg Dolan ~ K5LFT, Galen Wilson ~ KE5BET, Tom Dishler ~ W5OHJ, Mitchel Romero ~ KB5TWL, Mark Saltzman ~ W5GTI, Richard Wallace ~ KE5KEL

146.820 W5DDL Repeater Update - EchoLink Node: 759629

Thanks to Charlie Morrison N5WE, AARA's new Yaesu DR-1X Dual Band Dual Mode Repeater, located on top of the Chase building downtown Lafayette, went on the air today (January 14, 2015) around 1PM today. The first contact was made between Charlie N5WE and Herman KN5GRK. Because of better receiver sensitivity and more power out, the range of the repeater should be extended by 5 or 10 plus miles. Early reports from Tom W5OHJ indicated this to be true, but only time will tell. Currently the repeater is in AUTO mode, so if it receives an Analog signal it will transmit an Analog signal. The same is true if the repeater receives a Digital signal. If you want to know more about the repeater, take a few minutes and watch this YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNjgHUhhMmA>

Due to this new upgrade, we lose the auto patch capabilities, however this feature was very seldom used with the old repeater. Most everyone now-a-day have cell phone capabilities.



BEARS Club of Morgan City, Louisiana Elect New Officers

2015 Officers - Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Service - The 2015 slate of officers conducted the first meeting of January. Pictured left to right are: Tommy Wells - KC5TGK- Treasurer; Jackie Price-KA5LMZ-President; Deborah Price-N5FMI-Secretary and Rudy Duchan-WA5QNH-Vice President.

Special events scheduled as of this date for 2015 include the Black Bear Festival in Franklin, National Field Day in June- location to be announced, International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend at Lighthouse Park in Berwick and the Tour du Teche at the finish line in Berwick. Other activities will be announced during the year.

The club's W5YI test team administered amateur radio tests in January. Upgrading to General Class Amateur Radio Operator is Tommy Wells, KC5TGK.

Preparations are underway to have all antennas and equipment ready for hurricane season starting in June.

The club welcomes anyone who is interested in ham radio; lessons can be scheduled as well as testing for all classes of amateur radio license.

Meetings are held every second Wednesday at 6pm upstairs at 201 Everett Street in downtown Morgan City.



JANUARY 2015 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	3	26	Ø	55	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	4	71	Ø	174	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	4	26	Ø	75	N5LRZ Ray
Bodie's Memorial DX Net	4	22	3	75	N5LRZ Ray
Youth Thursday Night Net	5	76	Ø	148	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra

"February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March."

- Dr. J. R. Stockton

AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net Rotation

Mark W5GTI, the net control station, for the AARA Monday Night Net had suggested that the net be rotated between three different area repeaters. Here is the February 2015 schedule:

DATE:	TIME:	REPEATER:	PL TONE:
February 2	7:00 PM	145.370	103.5
February 9	7:00 PM	147.040	103.5
February 16	7:00 PM	146.820	103.5
February 23	7:00 PM	145.370	103.5

When using the SkyWarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL Tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8.

The February 2015 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website at:

http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/files/monday_net.pdf

Notice: Mark W5GTI announced again that he would continue the AARA Monday Night Net contest for 2015.

The top 10 check-ins on the Monday Night AAARA Net during 2015 will get their call/name entered into a drawing and a winner from the top 10 check-ins will receive a Chinese import dual band handi-talkie paid for by Mark W5GTI. **HOW ABOUT THAT?** So be sure to check into the net and thanks to Mark in keeping the net active.

AARA MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not paid your 2015-2016 AARA membership dues, now would be a good time to do so. A membership application can be downloaded from the website at:

http://www.w5ddl.org/aara_membership_appl.pdf

You can also view the membership roster by going to the website and clicking on the "Member Roster" link and entering the username and password given online.

<http://www.w5ddl.org>

AARA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

2/3	JIM	N5NVP
2/4	WESTON	KB5WI
2/10	GLENN	KD5NVC
2/24	DANNY	KD5JSM
2/26	SAMUEL	KG4AYI

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.

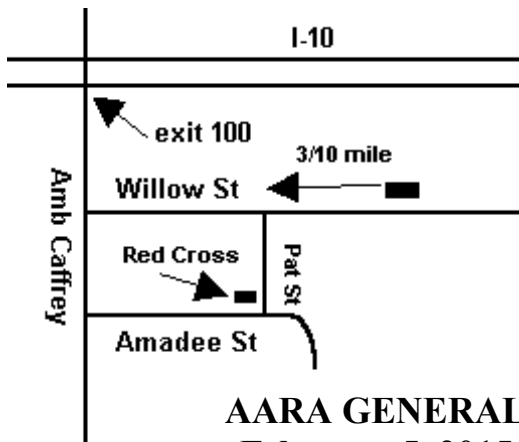


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Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a
Friend to be a HAM !

AARA GENERAL MEETING

February 5, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA

VE Testing Tonight @ 6:00 PM

Golden Corral - Ambassador Caffery

Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM - 2:00 PM

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA

Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE

Cajun Stuffed Peppers

Recipe courtesy Food Network Magazine

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 cup long-grain brown rice | 1/2 tsp. dried thyme |
| 13 cup quinoa | large pinch of allspice (optional) |
| 2 large green bell peppers, halved
lengthwise and seeded | Kosher salt |
| 1 tbs. extra-virgin olive oil | 1 14 oz. can low-sodium diced to-
matoes |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 1 small bunch kale, stems removed,
leaves chopped |
| 1/4 pound andouille sausage, finely
chopped | chopped fresh parsley, for toping
(optional) |
| 3 cloves garlic, chopped | |

Directions:

Bring a medium saucepan of water to a boil; add the brown rice and boil 10 minutes. Stir in the quinoa and cook until both grains are tender, about 15 more minutes. Drain well and set aside.

Meanwhile, drizzle the bell peppers with 1 tablespoon water in a microwave-safe bowl. Cover with plastic wrap; microwave 10 minutes.

Heat the olive oil in a wide saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring, until golden, about 5 minutes. Add the sausage, garlic, thyme, allspice and 1/2 tea-
spoon salt and cook, stirring, until the sausage is brown and
crisp, about 3 more minutes.

Add the tomatoes and 1 cup water to the pan. Pile the
kale on top, cover and cook until the kale wilts, about 2 min-
utes. Stir the kale into the sauce and bring to a simmer. Ar-
range the bell peppers on top, cover and simmer until the
kale is just tender, about 8 minutes.

Divide the peppers among plates. Stir the grains into the
kale mixture and season with salt. Spoon into the peppers.
Top with parsley.

Photograph by Antonis Achilleos



FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur
Radio license inquiries about new/
vanity call signs: 888-225-5322.
This will connect you the FCC Na-
tional Call Center, handled by the
FCC's Consumer Information Bu-
reau. Amateurs having ULS prob-
lems or questions should contact
the FCC's ULS Technical Support
staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can
also be obtained from the ARRL/
VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC
is:

Federal Communications Commis-
sion, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettys-
burg, PA 17325-7245